

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5864

C O N F I D E N T I A L 5823

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TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, US

SUB: US/EC DIALOGUE--FURTHER INFORMATION ON EC
PERMREP DISCUSSION

REF: EC BRUSSELS 5787

1. SUMMARY. THE MISSION HAS NOW RECEIVED ADDITIONAL
DETAIL ON THE C PERM REP DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE
US COMMENTS AND SUGGESTED CHANGES IN THE COPENHAGEN
DRAFT DECLARATION. IT APPEARS FROM THIS INFORMATION
THAT A POSITIVE EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO UNDERSTAND AND
DEAL WITH THE US PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS A RESULT OF US REACTION TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE
COPENHAGEN DRAFT DECLARATION, PERMREP SOURCES HAVE BEEN
EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THEIR MEETINGS EARLIER
THIS WEEK WITH US. ONLY TWO MEMBERS OF EACH DELEGATION
WERE ALLOWED IN THE ROOM.

3. IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION SENT IN REFTEL,
HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOW OBTAINED A BETTER FEEL FOR THE
GENERAL COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN SENT BY THE PERMREPS
TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS FOR THEIR MEETING IN
COPENHAGEN OCTOBER 11-12. THE PERMREP PAPER IS SIX
PAGES LONG AND AFTER THREE GENERAL REMARKS IT CONTAINS
COMMENTS ON EACH OF THE SUGGESTED US DRAFTING CHANGES.
IN EACH CASE IT INDICATES THAT MOST OF THE MEMBER
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STATES, SEVERAL MEMBER STATES OR AN INDIVIDUAL DELE-
GATION HAVE MADE A PARTICULAR COMMENT ABOUT THE US
TEXT BUT DOES NOT IDENTIFY THE DELEGATION BY NAME.

4. OUR LATEST INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE BULK OF THE COMMENTS WERE PUT FORWARD IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT DESIGNED TO ILLUMINATE WHAT THE US WAS ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE AND, IF IT APPEARED TO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE COMMUNITY, SOME ASSESSMENT WAS GIVEN AS TO WHETHER OR NOT DELEGATIONS FEEL THAT THE DIFFICULTY COULD BE OVERCOME BY DIFFERENT WORDING.

5. THE FIRST GENERAL COMMENT POINTS TO THE VARIOUS PLACES THAT THE US WISHES TO INTRODUCE THE CONCEPT OF CONSULTATION AND PARTICULARLY THE IDEA THAT THIS SHOULD ASSUME A NEW "FORM". THE COMMENT STATES THAT "MOST OF THE DELEGATIONS" REACHED THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSION. AFTER EXAMINING THE TEXT OF THE 1972 EC SUMMIT DECLARATION AND ITS BACKGROUND DISCUSSIONS, THEY FOUND NO CONFLICT BETWEEN THE PRINCIPLE OF A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND THE QUESTION OF FINDING

SOME NEW FORM FOR SUCH A DIALOGUE. THEY ATTACHED THREE PROVISOS HOWEVER; FIRST, THAT ANY NEW FORM BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF GENUINE RECIPROCITY; SECOND, THAT IT IN NO WAY BE EXCLUSIVE IN TERMS OF AFFORDING THE US SPECIAL RIGHTS NOT EXTENDED TO OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES; AND THIRD, THAT SUCH A DIALOGUE AND ITS FORM SHOULD NOT ENCROACH ON THE AUTONOMY OF COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING. SUBJECT TO THESE CAVEATS, THEY FELT THAT THE QUESTION OF CLOSER CONSULTATION AND POSSIBLE NEW FORMS MERITS FURTHER STUDY. (USEC COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT THE REFERENCE TO " MOST OF THE DELEGATIONS" MEANS THAT FRANCE SHOWED ITS TRADITIONAL RETICENCE ON THIS SUBJECT.)

6. THE SECOND GENERAL COMMENT DEALS WITH A POSSIBLE CONFLICT BETWEEN, ON THE ONE HAND, THE US CONCEPT OF EQUAL PARTNERSHIP WITHIN AN ATLANTIC COMMUNITY AND, ON THE OTHER, THE SEARCH FOR A EUROPEAN IDENTITY AND NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY, THE US

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AND OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES IN OUTSIDE FORUMS SUCH AS THE IMF AND THE GATT. THE COMMENT IS MADE THAT THERE COULD BE, BUT NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE, A CONFLICT BETWEEN OUR CONCEPT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON COMMUNITY POSITIONS. THE PERMREP CONCLUSION IS THAT THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE COMMUNITY AS EQUAL PARTNERS NEED NOT PREJUDGE NEGOTIATIONS ELSEWHERE.

7. ANOTHER GENERAL COMMENT RELATES TO THE EMPHASIS GIVEN IN THE EC DRAFT TO RELATIONS WITH LDC'S WHICH THE PERMREPS FEEL HAS BEEN DE-EMPHASIZED IN THE US AMENDED VERSION. THEY BELIEVE THAT THEIR ORIGINAL BALANCE SHOULD BE RESTORED.

8. THE REMAINDER OF THE COMMENTARY IS A SERIES OF STATEMENTS OR QUESTIONS WHICH WERE DESCRIBED TO US AS BEING GENERALLY DISPOSED TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF THE US VIEWS, OCCASIONALLY POINTING OUT EITHER SERIOUS OR LESS SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES AND ALSO RAISING QUESTIONS FOR CLARIFICATION WHERE THE INTENT OF THE US CHANGES IS NOT APPARENT.

9. IT IS EXPECTED THAT, AS WE MENTIONED IN REFTTEL, THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS WILL EITHER ASK THE PERMREPS TO IMMEDIATELY BEGIN DRAFTING SPECIFIC LANGUAGE CHANGES OR THAT THE PERMREP COMMENTS WILL BE USED AS A BASIS FOR ASKING FURTHER QUESTIONS OF THE US REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING ON OCTOBER 18.
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